

Message Text

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51

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 MC-02 ACDA-19 OMB-01

RSR-01 /155 W

----- 130681

R 201222Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9474
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6545

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: ES, MASS

SUBJ: ISRAELI ARMY SALES TO GOES

REF: A. STATE 164208, B. STATE 157617

1. INFO IN REF A APPEARS MUCH MORE PLAUSIBLE THAN IN PREVIOUS
REF B. ISRAELI AIR FORCE CURRENTLY HAS 23 MYSTERE IV A AND
31 OURAGAN JET FIGHTERS IN TEMPORARY STORAGE. BOTH OF THESE
ARE 1950'S VINTAGE AND ISRAEL HAS MADE NO SECRET OF FACT SHE
WOULD LIKE TO SELL THEM.

2. MYSTERES WOULD APPEAR LESS SALEABLE BECAUSE : A) THEY HAVE
BEEN STORED LONGER; B) AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER ARE SITTING IN
OPEN ON IAF BASES AS DECOYS; AND (C) THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF ANY
ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE THEIR AIRWORTHINESS.

3. BY CONTRAST, THE OURAGANS WENT THROUGH AN IRAN (INSPECT
AND REPAIR AS NECESSARY) PROGRAM JUST PRIOR TO ENTERING STORAGE
IN APRIL OR MAY 73. THEY WERE EMINENTLY AIRWORTH AT THAT
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TIME AND STILL APPEAR IN GOOD SHAPE.

4. DATT'S VIEW, IT IS HIGHLY LIKELY THAT ISRAELI AIRCRAFT INDUSTRIES (IAI) IS THE "PRIVATE ISR CORP" NOW IDENTIFIED AS GOI AGENCY. IT IS FIRM WHOLLY OWNED BY GOI. IF SO, ONE COULD BUILD A PLAUSIBLE SCENARIO BASED ON IAI'S MAJOR SALES CAMPAIGN OF THE "ARAVA" STOL IN LATIN AMERICA. THEY HAVE SHOWN THEIR WILLINGNESS TO MAKE CONCESSIONARY ARRANGEMENTS: E.G. PACKAGE DEAL IN MEXICO COMBINING SALE OF ARAVAS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT MAINTENANCE COMPLEX. EL SALVADOR COULD BE RECEIVING A SQUADRON OF VINTAGE FRENCH-BUILT JET FIGHTERS AT A GOOD PRICE TO CLINCH AN ARAVA SALE.

KETATING

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